

KING'S COLLEGE ENCAENIA.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS;

WITH THE

ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN HARVEY,

K. C. B. AND K. C. H.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW BRUNSWICK,

AND

CHANCELLOR OF ITS UNIVERSITY.

FROM THE ROYAL GAZETTE.

PRINTED BY JOHN SIMPSON,
PRINTER TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK,

1840.



KING'S COLLEGE ENCAENIA.

THE Annual Festival of the University of New Brunswick has been this year remarkably distinguished, not only by other circumstances indicative of the successful progress of the institution, but especially by the lively interest in its prosperity discovered by Her Majesty's Representative SIR JOHN HARVEY.

The Annual Sermon, on His Excellency the Chancellor's appointment, at the request of the Venerable the Archdeacon, was preached at Christ Church on Sunday, June the 21st, by the Reverend the Vice President. The subject of the discourse, from the text 1 John, 4, 16, was the Benevolence of the Deity, as manifested in the works of creation, the conduct of providence, and the dispensations of grace; from which inferences of great importance were drawn in regard to human disposition, motives and pursuits. In compliance with His Excellency's desire the College Council has provided for the publication of this Sermon by the Queen's Printer.

The Examinations of the College and Collegiate School were honoured with His Excellency's presence; who, having given vigilant attention to all the proceedings, warmly congratulated the instructors with their respective pupils, as well as the assembled visitors, among whom were the Surveyor General, the Master of the Rolls, and other individuals of the first respectability, on the convincing proofs which had been afforded of the complete efficiency of the establishment in both its divisions, and in the several departments of each.

At the Annual Meeting of the College Council, which took place on Tuesday, June the 23d, the Examiners reported that they had adjudged the Douglas Gold Medal to Mr. J. S. Millidge, a student of the College, for his Essay on "The Nature and Principles of Justice;" and that two other Essays on the same subject appeared to them deserving of some honorable mark of approbation. They reported also that Master E. B. Chandler, a scholar of the

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Collegiate School, was entitled to the Silver Medal; and that another scholar was so nearly equal in proficiency, as to merit an equivalent distinction. The Council consequently directed, on His Excellency the Chancellor's proposition, that Classical works, appropriately bound and decorated, should be presented to Messrs. T. S. Peters and Stayner, and to Master W. B. Robinson. Suitable rewards were also provided for other scholars.

Wednesday, June the 24th, was occupied in the examination of candidates for the two Scholarships which had been proposed to general competition. They were examined by Dr. Jacob in Classical authors, the principles of Grammar, Composition, History and Geography; by Dr. Robb in Chemistry; and by Mr. E. Wilmot in Geometry, Algebra and Arithmetic. The successful candidates were Mr. T. G. Street, a student of the College, formerly a pupil of Mr. Sivewright, at Miramichi; and Mr. J. M. Wood, the senior pupil in the Collegiate School, at Fredericton, under the charge of Messrs. Roberts and Holbrook.

On Thursday, June the 25th, His Excellency the Chancellor proceeded to the College Chapel, and held the Public Academical Act in commemoration of the foundation of the University. The Annual Oration, as required by the Statutes, was delivered by the Vice President and Principal, in his capacity of Professor of History. In this Oration, after a just tribute to the founders and benefactors of the College, some of whom, Dr. Jacob observed, are already numbered with our fathers, while others have been removed to distant scenes, unlikely ever to behold the fruit of their labours, he took an enlarged view of the proper design and character of a College, invested with the high privileges of a British University; its object being nothing less than to place the student in the midst of all the lights, aids and encouragements which mankind have known. He adduced a variety of considerations calculated to impress the minds of the students with the vast importance of mental cultivation; and ended with remarking: "In the conclusion of an Oration, which it was my province to deliver from this place several years since, I added a few words on the comparative inefficiency with which our College had then been not unfrequently reproached. I did not enquire with how much justice those reproaches might have been cast upon it, still less could I think of retorting the obloquy; remembering that on this subject, as on all

others, reason and truth would eventually prevail; and that patient endurance, even were it not a cardinal virtue, and one of the prime secrets of mortal happiness, would often be found the best confutation, as it is always the most dignified rebuke, of an adversary. In the meantime however I ventured to suggest, whether our Collegiate system might not admit of some real improvement; whether a more careful-adaptation of its external aspect and internal constitution to the known state, sentiments and habits, of the provincial population, might not render it, I would not say more attractive, but capable of communicating more extensive benefits. The difficulties which then opposed such amendments were, I was painfully sensible, great and discouraging; but I consoled myself with reflecting that there was a power which could overcome or dissolve them all. The power I mean is that expansive benevolence, which, applied to a country, becomes true patriotism, and which our religion has consecrated by the name of charity. On the present occasion I will merely allow myself to express the hope that my anticipations may not prove to have been entirely unfounded; and to add my humble prayer to the source of all good, that that divine power (for such I cannot hesitate to term it) may continually preside in our councils, and uniformly direct our measures; assured that it will eventually be found in our moral world, what the long sought gem was expected to be in the natural; converting misconception, error, prejudice and dislike, to its own golden purity and sterling worth."

Mr. George Lee, a graduate who had on two former occasions occupied the rostrum on his own behalf, now proceeded to read Mr. Millidge's Essay; the author, although present, being unequal to the task from the effects of recent illness. The Essay contained a very ample description of the most important virtue which formed its subject; abounding with moral observations, and practical illustrations and applications, which indicated diligence of research and strength of reflection, hardly to have been expected at so early an age.

Mr. Lee and Mr. W. Scovil were next presented for the degree of Master of Arts; which they had thus the honor of receiving from His Excellency the Chancellor.

His Excellency was then pleased to address the Academical assemblage in the following words:—

Reverend Gentlemen and Gentlemen.

It is now three years since I addressed you in this place, upon the occasion of my first presenting myself to you as the *Ex Officio* Chancellor of this University.

In the course of the period which has since elapsed, I have not failed to devote my attention to those considerations, which appeared to me to belong to the promotion of the efficiency of the College and of the Collegiate School. In doing this, it is gratifying to me to be able to state, that I have experienced the most zealous and liberal support from the members of the College Council generally; and I entertain the hope, that I shall be enabled to announce the assent of the Queen to arrangements, which are, in our judgment, calculated and required, for the purpose of increasing and extending the utility of the establishment; and therefore ensuring for it the continued approbation and support of the Legislature and of the Country.

In the meantime, while declaring my conviction that King's College and its auxiliary, the Collegiate School, are singularly fortunate in the services of instructors peculiarly qualified for their respective walks of tuition, a sense of justice compels me to remark, with reference to the Classical part of that instruction, that the establishment appears to me to possess, in the individual more especially presiding over that important branch of education, a highly gifted and most accomplished scholar. I have felt myself unable to resist the opportunity, which the present occasion offers, of publicly expressing my high estimation of the present learned Principal of King's College.

The public Examinations, of this and preceding years, with the Essay which has this day been read before you, and I will add others, some the productions of students now present, of the merits of which a very favorable judgment has been pronounced by the Examiners; (so equal indeed, in the present case, have two of these compositions appeared, as to render it a matter of considerable difficulty to assign the palm of superiority;) these evidences must afford ample promise that King's College is destined to fulfil the objects of its institution, by conferring upon the youth of the Province the means of acquiring a high degree of proficiency in every branch of literary and scientific attainments.

Adverting to the prize awarded to the successful Essay, although for the reason to which I have alluded it might scarcely seem correct strictly to apply to that award the principle by which such decisions are generally understood to be governed,—that of "*detur digniori*;" yet it may be said, in a spirit which will excite no feeling of jealousy in the breast of an unsuccessful candidate, "*Palmarum cui contigit ferat*." (I shall be pardoned the slight but necessary alteration in this quotation.) And to the bearers of those honorable badges, and to all their fellow students, I would say,—let them remind them in after days of their great good fortune in having had their lot cast in a Province, in which education is so liberally promoted, and merit so nobly rewarded.

Neither will it derogate from the strength and purity of this patriotic feeling, to associate with it a grateful recollection of that distinguished individual, to whose active and enlightened patronage this noble establishment is so largely indebted; and by whose personal bounty this honourable, and therefore valuable, incentive to mental exertion on the part of the students, was conferred upon it:—I need not name "Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS."

Occupying *pro tempore*, as the Representative of my Sovereign, a post of such distinction as the Chair of this University, I do not affect to conceal from myself, what others cannot fail to perceive, that I have no pretensions to that high honor, other than those attaching to my official position. Nevertheless, if a deep conviction of the inestimable advantages of a liberal education, based upon, and sustained by, sound principles of religion and morality, with the most anxious desire to secure to the rising generation in this Province these great blessings by every means which my situation affords me, may be regarded as conferring upon me any claims to the confidence of those most interested in the prosperity of this establishment; to that extent, and on such grounds, I can confidently appeal for their support and good will.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from warmly congratulating the inhabitants of this Province upon the possession of an establishment which, receiving the pupil at an early age, and upon moderate terms, is capable of conducting him, under able, sound, and admirably qualified instructors, to the moment when the business of active life is to commence; and of eminently fitting him, in point

of educational attainments, for the pursuit or profession of, his choice; and at the same time making him a loyal subject, and a useful member of society. In proportion as these blessings are valued by the enlightened inhabitants of New Brunswick, will, I trust, be the support which they will continue to extend to an institution so well qualified to confer them."

His Excellency concluded the proceedings of the Emericia, by presenting the Gold and Silver Medals agreeably to the award of the Examiners, with another prize to Mr. Hanford, a student of the College, for the highest proficiency in Chemistry; and proposed the following subject for an Essay for the Gold Medal of the ensuing year, viz.:

"The connexion of Literature and Science."

The Emericia was graced with the presence of Lady HARVEY, and a highly respectable assemblage from the families resident in and around this Provincial Capital.



